



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 1249.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2011

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## Summary

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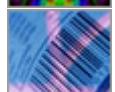
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## About the Classification



### ABOUT THE CLASSIFICATION

#### OVERVIEW

The Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) is the Australian statistical standard for classifying ancestry data within the Australian population. ASCCEG has been developed based on the geographic area in which a group originated, developed or settled noting, similarity of groups in terms of social and cultural characteristics. ASCCEG is intended for use in the collection, aggregation and dissemination of data relating to the cultural diversity of the Australian population.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) developed ASCCEG to satisfy wide community interest in the ethnic and cultural composition of the Australian population and the characteristics of particular migrant community groups. The classification is intended to provide a standard to meet a growing statistical, administrative and service delivery need for data relating to these interests. The adoption of ASCCEG by statistical, administrative and service delivery agencies improved the comparability and compatibility of data on ethnicity from diverse sources.

### **First edition of ASCCEG 2000**

The first edition of ASCCEG was developed by means of:

- extensive research of Australian and overseas literature,
- consultation with stakeholders including:
  - academics
  - ethnic and community groups and
  - agencies which provide and use cultural diversity data
- analysis of existing data relating to the cultural and ethnic profile of Australia (primarily data from the 1996 Census of Population and Housing) and
- use of principles and techniques relating to the development of statistical classifications.

The number of members of particular cultural and ethnic groups in Australia was treated as a significant factor in developing the hierarchical structure of the classification, to ensure that the current ethnic profile of Australia is appropriately reflected. Cultural and ethnic groups for which available data indicate small numbers in Australia are not separately identified in the classification structure but are included in appropriate residual categories.

The ABS produced ASCCEG in line with its commitment to provide leadership in the development and promotion of statistical data standards. The ABS uses ASCCEG in its own statistical work, including classifying responses to the question on Ancestry in the Census of Population and Housing, and actively promotes its use by other government agencies, private organisations, community groups, and individuals collecting, analysing, or using information relating to cultural and ethnic groups.

The identification of cultural and ethnic groups in the classification, and the way in which they are grouped, does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the ABS concerning the recognition of any group by governments, organisations or individuals, or the status accorded them. Nor does it imply the expression of an opinion concerning the relative merit or importance of particular cultural and ethnic groups or the people who belong to them.

### **Second edition of ASCCEG 2005**

The Second Edition (2005 revision) of the classification expanded the number of cultural and ethnic groups identified at the base four digit level from 189 groups to 231. There were no structural changes at the broad group or narrow group levels.

### **Second edition (Revision 1) of ASCCEG 2011**

Examination of the 2006 Census data and information from stakeholders and external sources indicated that some aspects of the classification required additions, removals or

changes to improve its accuracy and applicability. As a result a minor review of ASCCEG was undertaken. To maintain ASCCEG's relevance and usability, and to provide a more comprehensive representation of cultural and ethnic groups in Australia, the 2011 minor review has added one narrow group and expanded the classification at the base four digit level from 231 to 275 cultural and ethnic groups. There have been no structural changes at the broad group level. (see: What has changed)

## DEFINITION OF ETHNICITY

ASCCEG is designed to be used for the classification of information relating to topics such as ancestry, ethnic identity, and cultural diversity. Although these topics have elements of difference, it is considered that the concept common to them all, and underpinning the classification, is ethnicity. Because the words 'ethnicity' and 'ethnic' are associated with many different meanings it is useful to provide some definitional context.

The *Macquarie Dictionary* (On Line Edition 2011) provides the following Australian context:

1. relating to or peculiar to a human population or group, especially one with a common ancestry, language, etc.
2. relating to the origin, classification, characteristics, etc., of such groups
3. of or relating to members of the Australian community who are migrants or the descendants of migrants and whose first language is not English
4. recognisable as coming from an identifiable culture.

For the purposes of ASCCEG 'ethnicity' refers to the shared identity or similarity of a group of people on the basis of one or more factors, which were enunciated by the 1986 Population Census Ethnicity Committee (ABS Cat. No. 2172.0), chaired by the late Professor W.D. Borrie CBE, in *The Measurement of Ethnicity in the Australian Census of Population and Housing* report to the Australian Statistician (the Borrie Report) published in April 1984. "The Committee considered that the most enlightening attempt to define an ethnic group is that contained in a United Kingdom Law Lords statement." (Reported in Patterns of Prejudice, Vol 17, No. 2, 1983). The Law Lords noted that the key factor is that the group regards itself and is regarded by others, as a distinct community by virtue of certain characteristics not all of which have to be present in the case of each ethnic group.

Among the distinguishing characteristics that may be involved were cited:

- a long shared history, the memory of which is kept alive
- a cultural tradition, including family and social customs, sometimes religiously based
- a common geographic origin
- a common language (but not necessarily limited to that group)
- a common literature (written or oral)
- a common religion
- being a minority (often with a sense of being oppressed)
- being racially conspicuous.

Since publication, of the Borrie Report, the multicultural nature of Australian society has further developed; however, the approach to the definition of ethnicity in the Borrie Report is still relevant and serves the purposes of ASCCEG.

The approach of defining ethnic or cultural groups in terms of one or more relevant characteristics allows the notion of ethnicity to be viewed in broad sub-concepts. The Borrie Report describes these as a self perceived group identification approach and an approach that is more historically determined. In ASCCEG, ethnicity is based on the self perceived

group identification approach for a number of reasons:

- Self perceived group identification measures the extent to which individuals associate with particular cultural or ethnic groups. A measure of active association produces data which is more useful in terms of policy and service delivery needs. An historically determined approach would produce data which relates individuals to groups with which they no longer have a particular affinity and with which they may have little social, cultural or economic similarity.
- The method used to collect information on ethnicity or ancestry in the ABS and other organisations is self-perception based on a self assessed response to a direct question. No attempt is made to historically determine the origins of individuals. It is important for the concept underpinning the classification and the categories of the classification to be in harmony with this approach.
- The use of self-perception results in the need to include a number of categories in the classification that equate to national cultural identities. In particular, the self perceived group identification approach allows the response 'Australian' and thus allows for the category 'Australian' in the classification. It also allows the meaningful classification of many other nationally oriented responses in statistical and administrative collections that would otherwise be unusable. A number of users indicated that the usefulness of the classification would be impaired if it did not allow for the concept of an 'Australian' ethnicity.

Considering ethnicity as a multi dimensional concept based on a number of distinguishing characteristics using a self-perception approach allows for a practical and useful classification attuned to generally accepted notions of what constitutes ethnicity and cultural identity. This approach supports the collection and use of data in statistical, administrative and service delivery settings.

## **SCOPE OF THE CLASSIFICATION**

The scope of ASCCEG is all cultural and ethnic groups in the world as defined above. In practice, only those cultural and ethnic groups with significant numbers of persons resident in Australia, are separately identified in the classification. However, all cultural and ethnic groups in the world are covered, those not separately identified being included in the most appropriate residual (not elsewhere classified) category of the classification. The code structure of the classification also allows the identification and addition of cultural and ethnic groups not presently separately identified, if such a need arises.

## **Building the Classification**



### **BUILDING THE CLASSIFICATION**

## **DESIGN CONSTRAINTS**

ASCCEG is primarily a classification for collecting statistical data within the Australian context. The theoretical and conceptual considerations for developing ASCCEG were

constrained by the need to reflect Australia's cultural and ethnic diversity including:

- the practical usefulness of the classification for collecting ancestry data from both statistical and administrative sources in Australia
- the analytical usefulness of data collected within the framework of the classification
- the number of Australians identifying with cultural and ethnic groups within each category at each level of the classification and
- the identification of groups which could be significant for policy setting and service delivery purposes.

The effect of these constraints on the classification has been that:

- some cultural and ethnic groups which are significant in a world context are not separately identified in the structure
- some broad groups are limited in the number of narrow groups they subsume
- cultural and ethnic groups which are not separately identified are included in the most appropriate residual, not elsewhere classified (nec), category.

Consequently, the range of cultural and ethnic groups separately identified in the classification is suitable and appropriate for the presentation of statistics about cultural and ethnic diversity in Australia. However, the coverage, balance and robustness of the classification structure is such that it can also accommodate changes to Australia's cultural and ethnic composition, and can be used to facilitate comparisons with cultural and ethnic data from other countries.

## CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA AND THEIR APPLICATION

The classification criteria are the principles by which the base level units of the classification are formed into classification categories which may be aggregated to form broader or higher-level categories in the classification structure. Ordinarily one of the principles of a classification development is that the categories should be mutually exclusive. That is, the categories should be distinct and should not overlap. Adhering to this principle in relation to cultural and ethnic groups can be problematic as the criteria for identification with a particular group can be quite varied.

The classification is not intended to classify people, but rather to classify all claims of association with a cultural or ethnic group.

Two classification criteria are used in ASCCEG to form the various levels of categories of the classification:

- The geographic proximity of cultural and ethnic groups in terms of the location in which they originated or developed. This refers to the geographic area of the world in which a cultural or ethnic group first became, or was first recognised as, a distinct entity.
- The similarity of cultural and ethnic groups in terms of social and cultural characteristics. These include the characteristics as previously noted in the Borrie Report with the primary elements of similarity used to aggregate groups being languages spoken and religion practised. Other factors of similarity include family and social customs, historical links and national aspirations. Factors such as food, music

and art traditions may also serve as indicators of cultural and social similarity

The classification criteria were applied in a straight-forward manner to produce the ASCCEG structure. However, some classificatory decisions are worthy of note.

The cultural identities of the peoples of Australia are recognised within ASCCEG. It would be inconsistent and impractical in a classification designed to collect data within the Australian context to not have 'Australian Peoples' and 'Australian' included in the classification. Australia has been inhabited by the Indigenous people for over 40,000 years and it is fitting that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples be recognised with appropriate categories in the narrow group 'Australian Peoples' and since European settlement, over 200 years ago, a distinct Australian cultural identity has emerged prompting the inclusion of 'Australian' in that narrow group.

Jewish has been included in Broad Group 4, North African and Middle Eastern. It is acknowledged that many Jewish people in Australia might not have ties with the Middle East and might consider classification within one of the European broad groups as more correct. However, following consultation with representatives of the Jewish community it was thought best to adhere to the classification criteria and include 'Jewish' in 'North African and Middle Eastern' as this is where the Jewish culture originated.

Cultural and Ethnic Group 3308 'Russian' has been classified as European on the grounds of cultural similarity with other European cultural and ethnic groups even though much of Russia lies in geographic Asia. As a general rule, cultural and ethnic groups which originated and are located in Russia have been classified to Europe as well. It is acknowledged, however, that this is not necessarily the best solution for all cultural and ethnic minorities east of the Urals, many of whom are more culturally Asian than European. The principle that has been adopted for the classification of groups in Russia, east of the Urals, is that those which speak Altaic or Iranic languages are classified to Narrow Group 72 Central Asian, while those which speak Ugro-Finnic languages are classified to Narrow Group 33 Eastern European.

Many people may relate to more than one cultural or ethnic group and so will give a multiple response to a question on ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity. If meaningful and useful data is to be collected, the classification must have the capacity to code each element of a multiple response. Often a response will indicate an identification with a country in a national or cultural sense, and will also acknowledge continuing ties with other ethnic or cultural groups. Such responses include: Irish Australian, Italian Australian. Data collection models are developed to capture these multiple responses, recognising that data is being collected to classify a respondent's identification with a particular cultural and ethnic group.

The classification criteria and the way they have been applied has produced a classification structure that can be described in conventional terms:

- cultural and ethnic entities grouped to form narrow groups on the basis of geographic proximity and similarity in terms of cultural and social characteristics and
- narrow groups aggregated to form broad groups on the basis of geographic proximity and a degree of similarity in terms of their characteristics.

Consequently the identified cultural and ethnic groups form the base level units of the classification.

In most cases, the middle level of the classification structure (narrow groups) are an aggregation of cultural and ethnic groups based on one or both of the criteria listed above

and include groups originating in a number of different countries. Geographically proximate cultural and ethnic groups are combined to form the narrow groups of the classification on the basis of a similarity of social and cultural characteristics.

At the first and most general level of the classification structure, broad groups are formed by combining geographically proximate narrow groups. The aggregation of narrow groups was undertaken, as far as possible, so that the broad groups formed consist of narrow groups which have a degree of similarity in terms of social and cultural characteristics. This creates distinct and geographically coherent groups comprised of cultural and ethnic entities which are, generally speaking, similar in terms of their characteristics.

## CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE

ASCCEG has a three level hierarchical structure.

The third, and most detailed level, of the classification, consists of the base level units which are the identified cultural and ethnic groups. The classification consists of 275 cultural and ethnic groups. Some groups are residual categories, or 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) categories, which contain entities not listed separately in the classification.

The second level of the classification consists of 28 narrow groups of cultural and ethnic entities which are similar in terms of the classification criteria.

The first and most general level of the classification consists of 9 broad groups which are formed by aggregating geographically proximate narrow groups and therefore consist of cultural and ethnic entities which are broadly similar in terms of social and cultural characteristics. No changes were made to the first level of the classification as a result of the review.

## About Codes



### ABOUT CODES

### CODE SCHEME

A one digit code is assigned to each first level unit in the classification. A two digit code is assigned to each second level unit, and a four digit code is assigned to each third level (base level) unit.

#### Broad group level

The first level of the classification, the broad group level, comprises nine categories to provide a broad overall view of the geographic proximity of cultural and ethnic groups in terms of the location in which they originated or developed and are represented by one digit codes.

They are:

1 Oceanian

- 2 North-West European
- 3 Southern and Eastern European
- 4 North African and Middle Eastern
- 5 South-East Asian
- 6 North-East Asian
- 7 Southern and Central Asian
- 8 People of the Americas
- 9 Sub-Saharan African

### **Narrow group level**

The second level of the classification, the narrow group level, provides increasingly detailed breakdowns of the broad groups.

The narrow groups are represented by a two digit code, the first digit indicating the broad group to which they belong. For example, within the Oceanian broad group (code 1), Australian Peoples is code 11, New Zealand Peoples is code 12, and Polynesian is 15, etc.

### **Cultural and Ethnic Group level**

At the third and most detailed level, the cultural and ethnic groups are represented by a four digit code. The first two digits represent the broad and narrow groups to which they belong.

For example:

The cultural and ethnic groups: 1101 Australian, 1102 Australian Aboriginal, 1103 Australian South Sea Islander and 1104 Torres Strait islander, all fall within the Australian Peoples narrow group (code 11) and the Oceanian broad group (code 1).

1 Oceanian

11 Australian Peoples

1101 Australian

1102 Australian Aboriginal

1103 Australian South Sea Islander

1104 Torres Strait islander

### **Adding cultural and ethnic groups to the classification**

The cultural and ethnic profile of Australia is likely to change over time because of factors such as changing migration patterns. Therefore, it may be necessary from time to time, to add cultural and ethnic groups to, or delete cultural and ethnic groups from, those separately identified in the classification, as the number of people identifying with a particular cultural and ethnic group in Australia changes. ABS periodically reviews its classifications to take account of relevant changes.

If it becomes necessary to separately identify an additional cultural and ethnic group in the classification structure, it will be allocated the next available four digit code, in the numerical sequence of codes of the narrow group to which it is being added. The cultural and ethnic groups of each narrow group are in alphabetical order, with the exception of the residual 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) categories.

Separately identified cultural and ethnic groups are not allocated codes ending with the digits '0' or '9'. These are special purpose codes used to denote residual (nec) categories in the case of '9', and supplementary, not further defined (nfd) codes in the case of '0' (see; Codes for residual categories and Supplementary codes).

The ASCCEG code scheme is devised so that any future changes, to the classification structure, can be easily accommodated. However, in order that the classification remains a standard, users should not make arbitrary changes to the structure. Rather, they should contact the ABS and identify any apparent problems they encounter in the course of implementation, data collection, or data analysis.

## **CODES FOR RESIDUAL CATEGORIES**

### **'Not elsewhere classified' (nec)**

Some narrow groups include residual 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) cultural and ethnic group categories. These categories are represented by four digit codes consisting of the two digits of the narrow group code, followed by the digits 99. All cultural and ethnic groups which are not separately identified in the classification are notionally included in the 'nec' category of the narrow group to which they relate. The classification currently has 24 'nec' categories at the cultural and ethnic group level for narrow groups where ABS experience indicates they are required. The decision to include particular cultural and ethnic groups in 'nec' categories rather than to show them as substantive categories is based mainly on their lack of numerical significance in Australia.

### **'Other' or 'Miscellaneous'**

In some broad groups, codes are also reserved for residual categories at the narrow group level. These codes consist of the broad group code followed by 9. These categories are termed 'Other' or 'Miscellaneous' categories and consist of separately identified cultural and ethnic groups which do not fit into other narrow groups on the basis of the classification criteria. The classification currently contains two such residual categories.

### **Additional residual categories**

Provision exists in the code structure for the creation of additional residual categories. If experience indicates the need for further residual categories the ABS will create them and add them to the classification structure. Residual categories are part of the classification structure and should not be created or used merely to 'dump' responses containing insufficient data to code to a separately identified category of the classification (see: Supplementary codes and Coding rules in Index for coding responses page).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY CODES**

Supplementary codes are used to process inadequately described responses in statistical collections and are listed separately in the ASCCEG data cube

It should be noted that supplementary codes are not part of the classification structure. They exist for operational reasons only, and no data would be coded to them if sufficiently detailed responses were obtained in all instances.

The codes are of three types:

- four digit codes ending with two or three zeros

- four digit codes commencing with three zeros and
- four digit codes commencing with the digits '09' to meet specific needs.

## Supplementary codes ending in zero

Codes ending in zero are described as 'not further defined' (nfd) codes and are used to code responses to a question about ancestry which cannot be accurately coded to the base (four digit cultural and ethnic group) level of the classification but which can be coded to a higher level (broad or narrow group) of the classification structure.

For example, responses which contain insufficient information to be assigned the code of a base level unit, but which are known to be within the range of cultural and ethnic groups relating to a particular narrow group, can be coded at that narrow group level. Such responses are allocated an 'nfd'. code consisting of the two digit code of the narrow group followed by '00'. For instance, the response 'Scandinavian' does not contain sufficient information to be coded directly to any specific base level unit, but it can be coded to Narrow Group 24, Northern European, which covers all the cultural and ethnic groups that are encompassed by the term 'Scandinavian'. It is thus allocated the 'nfd' code 2400, Northern European, nfd.

Similarly, responses which do not contain sufficient information to be coded to a specific cultural or ethnic group, or to a narrow group, but which are known to fall within the range of cultural and ethnic groups of a particular broad group, can be coded at the broad group level. Such responses are allocated an 'nfd'. code consisting of the single digit code of the broad group followed by '000'. For example, the response 'Celtic', does not contain sufficient information to be coded directly to any particular base level category or to a particular narrow group, but it can be coded to Broad Group 2, North-West European, as all Celtic cultural and ethnic groups originated and developed in North-West Europe. It is therefore allocated the 'nfd'. code 2000, North-West European, nfd.

Four digit codes commencing with '09' are used to code ancestry responses which might broadly describe the the region of origins but not be codable to either a discrete cultural or ethnic group or to one of the 'nfd' codes. These codes allow for the preservation of useful data for responses such as African, Asian, European etc where the data might otherwise be aggregated to an ' inadequately described' supplementary category.

Using these supplementary codes enables responses or input data which can only be assigned codes at the broad or narrow group levels of the classification to be processed within a collection at the four digit level. This allows the coding process to be as precise as the input data quality allows, preserving data that would otherwise be discarded as uncodable or aggregated with other data to which it is unrelated in the 'inadequately described' supplementary category. (The full list of supplementary codes used can be found in the ASCCEG data cube).

## Index for Coding Responses



### INDEX FOR CODING RESPONSES

## WHY WE USE A CODING INDEX

Responses provided in statistical and administrative collections do not always precisely reflect classification categories. A coding index is therefore necessary to act as a link between responses and the classification, enabling responses to be assigned accurately and quickly to the appropriate category of the classification.

## HOW THE INDEX WAS DEVELOPED

The coding index has been developed to assist in the implementation and use of the classification and should be used when coding administrative data and responses to questions relating to ancestry, ethnicity and cultural diversity. The coding index has been devised by reference to existing literature in the field; consultation with academics, experts, government and private organisations with ethnicity knowledge and expertise, and ethnic and community groups; and by analysis of existing ABS data. It contains a comprehensive list of the most probable responses to questions relating to ethnicity, cultural background and ancestry and their correct classification codes.

The coding index includes many cultural and ethnic groups that are not separately identified in the classification structure but which are included in the residual nec category of the narrow group to which they relate. In addition to its coding function, the index can therefore be used to clarify the nature, extent and varietal content of each classification category.

The coding index as at 16 August 2011 is included in the ASCCEG data cube.

## CODING RULES

As previously noted the classification is not intended to classify people, but rather to classify all claims of association with a cultural or ethnic group. In developing the coding index for ASCCEG a number of rules were followed in assigning index entries the correct classification code. It is recommended that these rules be adhered to when coding any response that does not appear in the coding index provided.

Many people identify with more than one cultural or ethnic group and will give multiple responses to a question on ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity. Often a response indicates an identification with a country in a national or cultural sense and also acknowledges continuing ties with other ethnic or cultural groups. These responses should be assigned codes for both categories they relate to. Sometimes a response will give the ethnicity and ancestry of both parents or all grandparents. If meaningful and useful data is to be collected, stored and disseminated, as many as possible of the cultural and ethnic groups nominated by a person on a statistical or administrative form should be coded. It is suggested that a minimum of two cultural and ethnic groups be coded if a multiple response is given. This will improve the accuracy and usefulness of data.

When coding responses in statistical, administrative or service delivery collections, the following rules should be applied:

- responses which match exactly with an entry in the coding index are assigned the code allocated to that index entry
- responses which have a partial match with an entry in the coding index and only differ in terms of alternative spelling, the use of abbreviations or acronyms, or the use of foreign or idiosyncratic words, etc. are assigned the code allocated to that index entry
- responses which have a partial match with an entry in the coding index and only differ

- in terms of qualifying or extraneous words are assigned the code allocated to that index entry
- responses which do not match with an index entry or relate to a separately identified cultural and ethnic group in the classification are assigned a residual (nec) category code, or a supplementary (nfd) code
- responses which are not precise enough to be coded to any category should be assigned the appropriate 'inadequately described' code
- when coding what appear to be multiple responses, if all the words appearing in the response appear in a single index entry, assign the code listed and
- when coding what appear to be multiple responses, if all the words appearing in a response do not appear in a single index entry, assign a code for each word representing a cultural or ethnic group that does appear in the index.

## Using the Classification



### USING THE CLASSIFICATION

#### EDITING SPECIFICATIONS

The full range of valid codes should be used in all specifications, including when validating input codes at editing stage, manipulating data and deriving output items. This is because some responses are given 'not further defined' (nfd) or 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) codes rather than the codes of clearly defined cultural or ethnic groups,

The full range of valid codes includes the classification structure and the supplementary codes and are listed in the ASCCEG data cube.

#### CODING, STORAGE AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Regardless of the level of aggregation envisaged for the dissemination of data, wherever possible, data should be captured, classified and stored at the most detailed level (four digit level) of the classification. Collecting and storing data at the four-digit level of the classification allows the greatest flexibility for the output of statistical data, enables more detailed and complex analyses, facilitates comparisons with previous data using related classifications, and preserves information to provide maximum flexibility for future use of the data or that may prove historically useful.

However, because of collection and confidentiality constraints, it may not be possible to collect, store or output data at the lower levels of the classification in all instances. The use of a standard classification framework will nevertheless enhance data comparability even though it may not always be possible to disseminate data at the most detailed level.

The hierarchical structure of ASCCEG allows users the flexibility to output statistics at the

level of the classification which best suits their particular purposes. Data can be presented at broad group level, narrow group level, or the base or cultural and ethnic group level. If necessary, significant cultural and ethnic groups within a narrow group can be presented separately while the remaining cultural and ethnic groups within the narrow group are aggregated. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant narrow groups within a broad group.

## About the Review



### ABOUT THE REVIEW

#### PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

The need for periodic reviews of ASCCEG to reflect changes in cultural and ethnicity profile of the Australian population was foreshadowed when ASCCEG was first released.

Analysis of 2006 Census of Population and Housing Ancestry data, indicated the need for a review of ASCCEG:

- to ensure it is as up to date as possible for use in the 2011 Census
- to reflect in ASCCEG the changes to the cultural and ethnicity profile in Australia taking place due to changes in immigration patterns
- to make some changes to coding assignment in the classification
- to improve the coding index used to code responses to Ancestry questions.

In addition, stakeholders have expressed the view that ASCCEG should categorise as many cultural and ethnic groups as possible and that it should identify emerging groups as early as possible.

A minor review of ASCCEG was undertaken to address these issues. Although it was deemed necessary to add an additional narrow group to the classification there was no review at the broad group level. There was no analysis of the conceptual model underpinning the classification.

#### HOW IT WAS DONE

##### Statistical analysis

Analysis of responses to the 2006 Census Ancestry question was conducted to identify:

- new and emerging cultural and ethnic groups within the Australian population
- cultural and ethnic groups within the Australian population whose number had significantly increased
- cultural and ethnic groups within the Australian population whose number significantly declined.

## External research

Extensive research was conducted to:

- confirm the appropriate terminology to be used for categories in the classification, as many respondents and stakeholders used linguistic rather than ethnic group terminology
- supplement the Census data and stakeholder comment
- assess the accuracy of code assignments and linkages, both in terms of regional placement in the broad groupings of the classification and in the detail of association of cultural and ethnic groups at the narrow group level.

## Stakeholder consultation

Consultation was undertaken with a range of users and stakeholders including ethnic and community groups, academics and other experts in the field. The ABS sought information on all aspects of the review including information on coverage at the base (cultural and ethnic group) level, information about appropriate and useful classification of cultural and ethnic groups, information about index coverage, and advice, comment and opinion about the structure of the classification.

Comments were analysed and where necessary or appropriate changes were made prior to circulating a revised draft for comment. In some instances, additional follow-up consultation was undertaken with particular experts and organisations.

# What has Changed



## WHAT HAS CHANGED

### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

As a result of the review of ASCCEG a number of changes to the classification have been implemented and these are summarised as follows:

- there have been no changes to the broad group level of the classification;
- the Narrow Group 43, 'Peoples of the Sudan,' has been added to reflect an increase in cultural and ethnic groups, within the Australian population, coming from that region of North Africa
- 44 cultural and ethnic groups have been added to the base level of the classification
- two cultural and ethnic groups, which had been removed from the base level of the classification in 2005, have been reinstated
- the cultural and ethnic group Khmer has been renamed Khmer (Cambodian) to more accurately reflect the responses by the Khmer people of Cambodia to ancestry questions
- three Sudanese cultural and ethnic groups have been moved to new Narrow Group 43

- and assigned different codes
- two cultural and ethnic groups have been deleted from the classification.

## DETAILS OF CHANGES

### **Cultural and ethnic groups added to the base level of the classification:**

4116 Bahraini  
4117 Emirati  
4118 Omani  
4121 Qatari  
4301 Bari  
4302 Darfu/Darfurian  
4305 South Sudanese  
4399 Peoples of the Sudan, nec  
4908 Assyrian  
4911 Chaldean  
4912 Mandaean  
4913 Nubian  
5112 Chin  
5113 Rohingya  
7118 Bangladeshi  
7121 Bhutanese  
7122 Fijian Indian  
7123 Kashmiri  
7124 Parsi  
7125 Sindhi  
7126 Sri Lankan  
7127 Sri Lankan Tamil  
7128 Indian Tamil  
7131 Tamil, nfd  
7132 Telugu  
7215 Kyrgyz  
9111 Acholi  
9112 Cameroonian  
9113 Congolese  
9114 Gio  
9115 Igbo  
9116 Krahn  
9117 Mandinka  
9118 Senegales  
9121 Themne  
9122 Togolese  
9233 Burundian  
9234 Kunama  
9235 Madi (Ma'di)  
9236 Ogaden  
9237 Rwandan  
9238 Shona  
9241 Swahili  
9242 Swazilander

## **Cultural and ethnic groups reinstated**

The following two cultural and ethnic groups were removed from the classification following the 2005 review; however, statistical data from 2006 combined with stakeholder feedback has indicated a need to reinstate these groups:

9102 Fulani  
9211 Namibian

## **Cultural and ethnic groups renamed**

Research has confirmed that the Khmer people of Cambodia are also referred to as Cambodians. The code 5104 has been used for the Khmer people, but based on Census responses in 2006 more than 80% of Khmer people of Cambodia living in Australia responded 'Cambodian' to the ancestry question. The name change for code 5104 to Khmer (Cambodian) will more accurately reflect the responses by the Khmer people of Cambodia to ancestry questions.

There has been a review of the 'not elsewhere classified' categories and to minimise the need for unnecessary maintenance to the classification the decision was taken to simplify these categories by removing all the short lists of ethnic groups which represented a small portion of possible inclusions in each of these categories. The names of the following 23 'nec' categories have been simplified:

1399 Melanesian and Papuan, nec  
1499 Micronesian, nec  
1599 Polynesian, nec  
2199 British, nec  
2399 Western European, nec  
2499 Northern European, nec  
3199 Southern European, nec  
3299 South Eastern European, nec  
3399 Eastern European, nec  
4199 Arab, nec  
4999 Other North African and Middle Eastern, nec  
5199 Mainland South-East Asian, nec  
5299 Maritime South-East Asian, nec  
6199 Chinese Asian, nec  
6999 Other North-East Asian, nec  
7199 Southern Asian, nec  
7299 Central Asian, nec  
8199 North American, nec  
8299 South American, nec  
8399 Central American, nec  
8499 Caribbean Islander, nec  
9199 Central and West African, nec  
9299 Southern and East African, nec

## **Cultural and ethnic groups changes between narrow groups**

To assist in aggregating data for various Sudanese cultural and ethnic groups, following the establishment of Narrow Group 43 'Peoples of the Sudan,' Dinka and Nuer have been

moved from Narrow Group 92 (Southern and East African) and Sudanese has been moved from Narrow Group 49 (Other North African and Middle Eastern) to Narrow Group 43 (Peoples of the Sudan):

4303 Dinka (formerly code 9224)  
4304 Nuer (formerly code 9227)  
4306 Sudanese (formerly code 4906)

### **Cultural and ethnic groups deleted**

In previous editions of ASCCEG, Assyrian/Chaldean has been used to describe a group of Neo-Aramaic people which included Assyrian, Chaldean, and Mandaean. These peoples are being recognised as separate groups in the revised edition of ASCCEG. Consequently the code 4901 Assyrian/Chaldean has been deleted.

In previous editions of ASCCEG, all Tamils have been aggregated under one category. Research and stakeholder information indicates that there is sufficient difference between and sufficient numbers of Sri Lankan Tamils, Indian Tamils and Tamils, not further defined (nfd), to justify these peoples being treated as separate groups in ASCCEG. Consequently the code 7116 Tamil has been deleted.

### **Removal of Dual Ancestries and Dual Coding**

Dual coding of selected ancestries information was included in the 2005 review of ASCCEG. However, as matters of dual coding are appropriately the domain of data processing, references to dual coding have been removed from the ASCCEG explanatory notes.

### **Published coding index changes**

There have been appropriate changes to the coding index to reflect growth in some cultural and ethnic groups based on stakeholder feedback, external research and 2006 Census data. Among the more significant changes to the index are:

- Additions to the index to identify the names of the three distinct groups of Kurds settling in Australia.
- Additions to the index to identify the names of the three distinct groups of Bhutanese settling in Australia.
- Changes to the index to reflect the addition of Narrow Group 43 Peoples of the Sudan.
- Changes to the index to reflect the addition of separate codes for Assyrian, Chaldean and Mandaean as well as separate codes for Sri Lankan Tamil, Indian Tamil and Tamil, nfd.
- Changes to the index to reflect all the other changes to the classification as detailed above.

These changes ensure that the classification is both statistically balanced and accurately reflects the cultural and ethnic composition of the Australian population

## **COMPARING CURRENT AND PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF ASCCEG**

In the interests of data comparability, the ABS urges users and providers of ancestry data to

collect, classify and disseminate data using the second edition revision 1 of the ASCCEG from the time of its implementation. However, it is acknowledged that there will be circumstances where users need to convert data from the second edition revision 1 to the 2005 second edition of ASCCEG. To facilitate this process, a correspondence table between the classification structures of the second edition revision 1 and the 2005 second edition is provided in the ASCCEG data cube

The correspondence table is reasonably straightforward because, in most cases, the base-level units of the two editions of the classification (cultural and ethnic groups) retain a one-to-one relationship. The correspondence table itemises the code linkages between the cultural and ethnic groups, details the links between the broad groups and the narrow groups, and indicates the movement of particular cultural and ethnic groups within the two structures.

Generally, the codes in both editions relate to the same entity. In some instances there is not a direct relationship between the cultural and ethnic group and cultural and ethnic groupings of the structures of the two editions. Partial linkages are indicated by including the letter 'p' beside the code for the groups concerned.

## About this Release

This is Revision 1 of the Second Edition of the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG).

ASCCEG was developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for use in the collection, storage and dissemination of all Australian statistical and administrative data relating to ancestry in Australia.

Revision 1 contains the updated classification based on the 2011 minor review.

## History of Changes

**This document was added or updated on 24/10/2012.**

24/10/2012 - The word "Other" was removed from the label of cell B29 of Table 2 and an unnecessary space preceding "Jordanian" was removed from the label of cell D115 of Table 1.3.

## Explanatory Notes

## Abbreviations

### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

ASCCEG Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups

ASCL Australian Standard Classification of Languages

ASCRG Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups

nec not elsewhere classified

nfd not further defined

SACC Standard Australian Classification of Countries

## **Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes**

The Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups 2011 data cube has been updated to include a link to the summary tab of ASCCEG documentation. There have been no changes to data.

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